

Dear Parents,

What fun the children have had this week! The children know that they are counting the days up to Shavuot (counting the Omer) and we know that there are 49 days from 2nd day Pesach until Shavuot. This Friday is the 33rd day of counting the Omer and the children learnt that in Israel it is a really fun and special day, where families have a bbq and fires and often have picnics. The children had their lunch outside and as a special treat we had Kabbalat Shabbat around a (pretend) fire and discussed the importance of fire safety.

The children have been learning about the butterfly life cycle this week and are enjoying watching their caterpillars grow. Whenever a visitor or another teacher comes into the classroom, the children take them over to see the caterpillars. The children have made a book about their caterpillars and how they are changing. They're being very patient and waiting for them to turn into a chrysalis.

To link with the children's love for their caterpillars, they changed the role-play area from an airport into Butterfly World! The children designed and decorated an egg, a caterpillar, a chrysalis and a butterfly that hang from the ceiling. They also drew beautiful pictures that they proudly stuck (by themselves) onto a low down display board. They sit in their butterfly garden and dress up as caterpillars and butterflies and read stories on the pretend grass.

On Wednesday the children made The Very Hungry Caterpillar hats and butterfly wings, they even made a hat for Mrs Baron! The children went home wearing their wings, and didn't want to put their coats on (even though it was raining!)

The highlight of the week for the children was being allowed to draw on the table with chalk pens. We talked about only being allowed to draw on the table in school with Mr Prince's special pens, and not to draw on anything else. This was a great way to encourage mark making and develop their gross motor skills by drawing on a larger scale.

Our maths focus this week has been on shapes and patterns. The children have been making shapes with natural materials in the playground and going on a shape hunt in the classroom and the playground. They love walking round with their clipboards and pencils!

Shabbat Shalom

Miss Genn and Mrs Talisman